

## *Rendering to God His Due*

Mark 12:13-17

Series: Christ our Focus

### 1. Introduction:

- a. Last week saw that the Sanhedrin came against our Lord for challenging their authority in cleansing the temple.
- b. We saw our Lord demonstrate to them that his authority is absolute and derived from the Father, the owner of everything.
- c. Today we are going to see that man must surrender himself to God and give God what is his due.
- d. If I asked you today, what is it that you owe God? What is His due? What would you say?
- e. Too many people today are paying tribute to all the wrong things. What are you paying tribute to?
- f. Also, too many people are being hypocritical with themselves and with those around them.
- g. The Sanhedrin here:
  - i. Sadducees
  - ii. Scribes
  - iii. Pharisees
  - iv. Jesus will be tested by all three
  - v. They are trying to discredit him before Rome and the people.

### 2. Verse 13 –

- a. The Sanhedrin sent a group of Pharisees and Herodians because they are concerned about Jesus and his influence
- b. They want to trap Jesus in order to have Him eliminated.
  - i. They wanted to trap him verbally
    1. Violent pursuit
    2. Rome was very aware of Jesus and what could possibly be an insurrection.
  - ii. There is persistent challenges from now on.
- c. They really do not care about taxation but they have ill-intent.
- d. Herodians –
  - i. The Herodians and the Pharisees were ideological antagonists who could not have been more opposite in their political and religious views.

1. Pharisees were concerned with the Law of God while the Herodians were appeasers to the Roman Government.
  - ii. Though the Pharisees despised the Herodians, they knew they could be useful in their plot to eliminate Jesus.
3. V.14 – Hypocrites will say anything
- a. Resorting to flattery
    - i. Cults that deny Jesus often claim to honor and love him
  - b. Teacher – a term on honor
    - i. If He was a teacher, why wouldn't they learn
  - c. We know that you are true.
    - i. Epitome of hypocrisy and lib service
  - d. You are not swayed
    - i. They knew that Christ would tell it like it is no matter the consequence
    - ii. Christ is honest
    - iii. How honest are you?
  - e. Truly teach the way of God
    - i. Irony is that although they did not believe this, this is the truth.
    - ii. **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
    - iii. To know facts about Jesus is not the same as to come to him humbly.
  - f. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar
    - i. Was it right to pay Judean money to a roman government that was corrupt and abusive.
      1. Many of us have this question to deal with today.
      2. Affirmative answer would turn the people against him, a negative answer would cause Rome to arrest him for treason.
4. Verses 15-17A – To God what belongs to him
- a. Verse 15 –
    - i. He knew their hypocrisy –
      1. **John 2:24-25** But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people (25) and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.
    - ii. Christ knows what is inside your heart today –

1. He know if what you say about him is in accordance with the way you live
2. **Hebrews 4:13** And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
- iii. Bring me a denarius – an idolatrous coin with the picture of the “son of god”
- b. Verse 16-17 –
  - i. 16-17A-Whose picture and they said Caesar...Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s...
  - ii. With this simple statement Christ makes a couple of incredible assertions
    1. Jesus acknowledges the legitimacy of human governments.
      - a. Even one so corrupt as Rome’s
    2. **Romans 13:1-7** Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. (2) Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. (3) For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, (4) for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. (5) Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. (6) For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. (7) Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.
    3. **1 Timothy 2:1-2** First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, (2) for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

4. **1 Peter 2:13-14** Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, (14) or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.
5. There is no human government on earth that will ever be godly and yet we must be good citizens
  - a. There is no such thing nor will there be such a things as a Christian government or Christian nation.
6. God is sovereign over all human affairs, including political affairs.
7. No government can assume total claim over their citizens, especially if that citizen belongs to the Lord.

5. Verse 17B – Render to God

- a. The only time government may be legitimately disobeyed is when it commands something contrary to the Law of God, or forbids something commanded by it.
- b. Man must give God his due and that is surrendering himself to the Lordship of Jesus.
- c. The denarius belonged to Caesar and bore his image, however the individual belongs to God and bears his image.
  - i. **Genesis 1:26** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
  - ii. Humanity belongs to God and the coins of this world to this world.

6. Benediction –

- a. **John 5:22-24** The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, (23) that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. (24) Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.